



## MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

### PRESS RELEASE

15 JUNE 2012

#### MINISTER TO LEAD DELEGATION TO BIO BOSTON

**KUALA LUMPUR (June 15, 2012):** Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Maximus Ongkili is leading an 80-member Malaysian delegation to the Bio International Convention in Boston, United States from June 18 to June 21.

The delegation will include the Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang, Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation CEO Dato' Mohd Nazlee Kamal, Terengganu State Secretary YB Dato' Hj Mazlan Ngah, Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) president/CEO Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Johari, East Coast Economic Region Council (ECERDC) CEO Dato' Dr Jebasingam Isaac John, representatives from MIDA, the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), state Economic Planning Units, state Science Executive Councillors, universities, Malaysian Debt Venture Berhad as well as from biotech institutions and companies.

The itinerary for the visit was crafted to include strategic announcements, business meetings, speaking engagements and document exchanges. There will also be side events to promote Malaysia and spur collaborations, promote the Malaysian biotechnology industry and attract more investment into Malaysia in the biotechnology sector, supporting the nation's push towards a sustainable and robust Bioeconomy.

The Bio International Convention 2012 in Boston is one of the biggest ever with more than 1800 exhibitors from 65 countries across the globe.

Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Maximus will also launch the Malaysian Pavilion, jointly hosted for the first time by BiotechCorp and MIDA. The Pavilion will highlight Malaysia's competitive edge as a biotechnology hub with its strong policy push towards developing a thriving bioeconomy, besides Malaysia's traditional strengths in bioresources, strategic location, accessibility and conducive environment to support investment and the development of businesses.

The Minister will meet investors and hold one to one meetings including with Lonza Group Ltd, Darden Restaurants Inc. and Darden Aquafarm Inc.. He will also witness the exchange of documents including between BiotechCorp and California Institute for Quantitative

BioScience (QB3) relating to the proposed setting up of a QB3 satellite programme in Malaysia. QB3 is a consortium of more than 200 labs from University of California's campuses, armed with world-class researchers, state-of-the-art facilities and entrepreneurial resources.

Other documents are between BiotechCorp, Terengganu State Government, ECERDC and US-based industrial biotech company, between BiotechCorp and Quintiles Inc. and between CCM Biopharma and PanGen Biotech.

The delegation will also visit the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)'s innovation and commercialisation centre. Malaysia and MIT have two major collaborations – the Malaysia-MIT Biotechnology Partnership Programme to build a sustainable biotechnology industry in Malaysia through R&D, and the Malaysian Cohort Project with the Broad Institute, MIT.

The Malaysian Cohort Project includes understanding how genes interact in chronic diseases and to discover bio-markers for diseases such as cancer. Samples from the Cohort Biobanks have been used for the MyGenome Project and the Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) for Type 2 diabetes in collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Oxford University.